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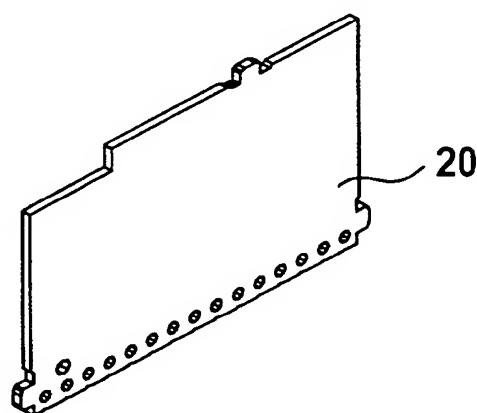
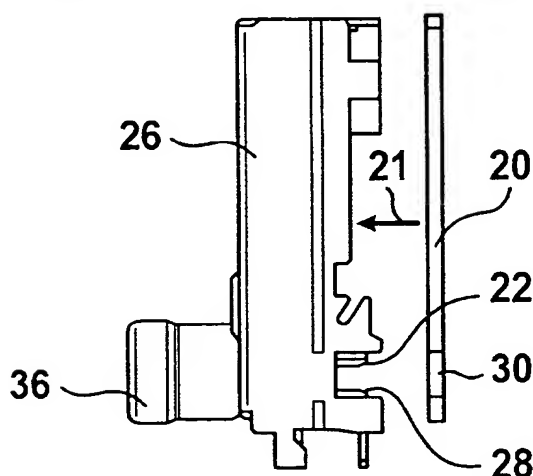
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(54) **A method for manufacturing an electronic apparatus having a shielding assembly and a printer wire board**

(57) An electronic apparatus comprises a front shielding assembly with a generally flat front plane (26) edged with a board to board multipin connector (21) and an antenna pin (22) substantially perpendicular to said plane, and a printed wire board (20) generally parallel to and in registration with the front plane. The apparatus is manufactured through applying the printed wire board in the registration and allowing the connector's multiple pins and the antenna pin to protrude through corresponding holes (32, 40) in the printed wire board. In par-

ticular, the manufacture comprises the following steps. First, a mechanical centering of the PWB relative to the shielding assembly is effected through the use of a plurality of edgewise disposed parts (24) of the PWB regarding edge parts of the shielding assembly whilst executing a first part of an approaching movement between said PWB (20) and said shielding assembly (26). Thereafter a further part of the approaching is executed through centering at least one of the multipin connector and the antenna pin on a corresponding hole in the PWB.

Fig. 2



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Description

[0001] The invention relates broadly to the manufacture of an electronic circuit device that is housed in a shielding enclosure arrangement constructed from a front part and a rear part which are both based on a substantially flat main shielding, whereas the electronics proper are situated therebetween and are mounted on a printed wire board (PWB). During the development of such subsystem for use as a motor vehicle tuner, the present inventor has recognized that the handling of parts on an assembly line should take only as little time as possible. Now, various functions should be realized through the combining of the parts in the subsystem, such as the shielding against interfering electromagnetic fields, the connecting of the printed wire board (PWB) both to the mains power connection and to the tuner proper, the connecting to the vehicle antenna, and the fixation of the tuner by mechanical means.

[0002] Now, in particular, the invention relates to an electronic apparatus comprising a front shielding assembly with a generally flat front plane edged with a board to board multipin connector and an antenna pin substantially perpendicular to said plane, and a printed wire board generally parallel to and in registration with said front plane.

[0003] Furthermore, the inventor has recognized the fortuitous properties of the printed wire board on which the electronic parts will be positioned, in particular, in that such printed wire board is being manufactured in the form of a larger board that comprises a plurality of such elementary boards. After certain manufacturing steps have been applied thereto, the elementary boards will be separated by a mechanical operation, such as breaking along predetermined break lines or "points". Although the tolerances incurred in such breaking are generally not quite up to the level of the ultimate product, they will go a large way, and in consequence, may be used in a preliminary positioning step of the PWB relative to the shielding. A subsequent final positioning step could then be used to secure the PWB to its final position.

[0004] In consequence, amongst other things, it is an object of the present invention to use the above breaking edges for a preliminary positioning, so that the subsequent finer operations will go smoothly. Now therefore, according to one of its aspects the invention is characterized by the following steps:

first, effecting a mechanical centering of said PWB relative to said shielding assembly through the use of a plurality of edgewise disposed parts of said PWB regarding edge parts of said shielding assembly whilst executing a first part of an approaching movement between said PWB and said shielding assembly, and thereafter executing a further part of said approaching through centering at least one of said multipin connector and said antenna pin on a

corresponding hole in said PWB.

[0005] The invention also relates to a product as manufactured according to the above method. Further advantageous aspects of the invention are recited in dependent Claims.

[0006] By itself, the art of fine-positioning electronic subsystems with the help of interconnecting pins has been the subject of various patent documents.

[0007] In this respect, Patent Abstracts of Japan describes a tuner connector wherein the tuner package connects to various fork-like structures on the board that also provide electrical connections. In this case however, the fine-positioning in a direction *along* the length of the pins that extend from the tuner package is indetermined. Such indeterminate character would be inappropriate viz à viz the high quality positioning requirements of the present invention.

[0008] Next, US Patent A-6,149,469 describes the double use of a female plug in the face of two applicable but different types of male plugs that have respective different lengths. Here, only the concentric quality of the male and female plugs is used for effecting a correct position. No reliance on a plurality of centering mechanisms of a complex subsystem as according to the present invention has been envisioned by this reference.

[0009] Finally, European Patent Application EP A 0 901 317 A1 in the German language discloses a tuner that may be fastened to a printed wire board through the use of two rows of clicking parts which at the same time with positioning, will provide for effecting a variety of electrical contacts. Although apparently representing a well-designed solution, the reference does not teach to use a single linear motion combined with two centering mechanisms in succession to secure an electric circuit-carrying printed wire board to its electromagnetic shield that also allows to effect electrical contacting.

[0010] These and further aspects and advantages of the invention will be discussed more in detail hereinafter with reference to the disclosure of preferred embodiments, and in particular with reference to the appended Figures that show:

Figure 1, an "outside" of the shielding arrangement according to the present invention;
Figure 2, a side view of the registration of tuner PWB and shielding arrangement;
Figure 3, a detailed view of the tuner PWB;
Figure 4, a PWB hole/connector pin arrangement;
Figure 5, a PWB hole/antenna pin arrangement;
Figure 6, a 3D design simulation without PWB;
Figure 7, the same but with PWB in place.

[0011] Figure 1 illustrates an "outside" view of the shielding arrangement according to the present invention. The shielding assembly 26 effectively constitutes the front cover of a "box", which is to be combined with

a rear cover 38 to when combined constituting a shielding enclosure. Their mutual fastening is effected through a structure that will be disclosed more in detail with reference to the further Figures hereinafter. Furthermore, item 36 is an ISO-standardized extruded frame antenna, that inside has a plastic contact holder 34. Various further details that are visible on the surface of assembly 26 are inconsequential for the present invention. The double-sided cover so realized may be used as a housing for an electronic circuit such as a tuner, although various other fields of application are feasible as well. In the embodiment, the electronic circuitry has a shielded signal input connected to the central pin of antenna frame 36, as well as an output for outputting a user signal such as audio or data.

[0012] Now, the objective is to design a single part that effects all functions recited in the opening paragraph. In the pre-existing design, various functions had been realized already. The subsystem had a reflow connector, that is mounted by automatic insertion, which is a high-precision operation step viz à viz the PWB, inasmuch as the insertion tolerance is determined by the tolerance of the connector itself. In particular, this means that the fixing of the complete subassembly is governed by the tolerance of the reflow connector, which is about 0.1 millimeter. Now, the invention has allowed to set a more uniform tolerance for the whole subassembly at about 0.2 millimeter.

[0013] Also, the earlier design needed an intermediate metal part connecting the tuner PWB and the coax antenna pin. There, the locating of the shielding was effected during insertion through two pins that protruded through holes in the PWB. In contrast, the new design has a straight or immediate connection with the PWB without addition of further parts, which allows to immediately effect the connection during insertion of the shielding. The mounting procedure now involves an auto-centering of the shielding that uses breaking "points", which effectively will have a certain size. Subsequently, the pins will be located inside their respective own holes just as the antenna pin, as will be discussed with reference to Figure 2 hereinafter. The procedure according to the invention was also driven by the wish to shrink the size of the overall apparatus relative to an earlier design.

[0014] Figure 2 illustrates a side view of the registration of tuner PWB and shielding arrangement according to the present invention. At left, the shielding 26 carries frame antenna 36, an antenna pin 22 and a row of connector pins 28 of which only a single one is visible. The printed wire board has been shown in correct registration regarding the shielding, and in particular the PWB locating areas (top and bottom) have been given a darker representation. The latter PWB has also been shown in a roughly 3D manner at right.

[0015] Figure 3 illustrates a detailed view of the tuner PWB with connector holes 40, antenna hole 32, and three pre-centering and breaking areas 24. The mounting procedure is now as follows. At the start, an arrange-

ment of six PWB boards is presented for automatic insertion. These are then separated by a person or mechanically and presented to the automatic process. During the initial part of the inserting, the PWB is brought in contact with the shield, during which the PCB will be centered through the breaking points 24.

[0016] Now according to the embodiment, the insertion proceeds as follows. At first, moving along arrow 21 in Figure 2, the PWB comes into contact with the shielding, while the three breaking points effect a preliminary centering among the two parts. Next, after a further movement over 1.5 millimeters, the antenna and connector pins are able to pass through the associated holes in the PWB. The movement along the arrow proceeds further, until a click sound is caused by several clips that are positioned on the shielding along the connector. This means that the shielding has indeed arrived at the correct position, which will then be temporarily maintained by the clips. Next, after this temporary locking, the PWB will be fixed permanently to the shielding by twisting three legs that are located close to the respective locating areas. These may be shaped as the one shown in Figure 1 at the left lower edge (19). Finally, the necessary electrical connections are secured by wave soldering.

[0017] The above procedure will locate and fix the PWB and shielding with respect to each other, which is effected by a simple twisting tool operating on the above three legs under the sub PWB. Furthermore, the Through Hole Connector between the two boards is inserted, just as the Through Hole Coaxial Antenna. Finally, the cooling system is effected through immediate contacts. The final wave soldering will care for the following. It will connect the shielding to the PWB ground of the tuner electronics. It will connect the pin coaxial antenna. And finally, it will strengthen the fixation between the shielding board and the tuner through the mechanical strength of the solder itself.

[0018] Advantageously, only a single part need be inserted for connecting PWB tuner, antenna, and shielding to ground. There is also a larger insertion tolerance on a car radio PWB than associated to a reflow connector solution alone. Finally, the technology provides a more robust design because of the prelocating of the PWB based on the prelocating of the pins through their respective holes.

[0019] Figure 4 illustrates a PWB hole/connector pin arrangement, to show the improved ease of the insertion step. The first locating step of the shielding viz à viz the tuner PWB uses the breaking points of the PWB for effecting the centering. On the basis of a tolerance of 1.5 millimeters at 30° C, this will allow a tolerance of +/-0.8 millimeters in both X- and Y-directions. A 1.5 millimeter length insertion will thus effect a provisional centering of the connector and antenna pins regarding their PWB holes.

[0020] The gap between the connector pins and PWB holes will for the locating between the PWB and the

shielding allow the connector to have a locating axis tolerance of 0.35 millimeters. The PWB hole tolerance is 1.6 +/- 0.1 millimeters. A square connector pin will under worst case have an overall (diagonal) diameter of about 0.9 millimeters (i.e. $0.64\sqrt{2}$), which is nearly exactly equal to the diameter of the inner hole.

[0021] Figure 5 illustrates a PWB hole/antenna pin arrangement. Here, the positioning of the antenna pin results from frame extrusion. The quality of the frame extrusion deals with the positioning. The diameter of the antenna pin is 0.35 millimeter, the PWB hole is 2.0 +/- 0.1 millimeter, the central part is 1.0 +/- 0.05 millimeter, both as shown.

[0022] For further illustration, Figure 6 shows a 3D design simulation without PWB, including the antenna pin, edge connector, antenna pin, and the edge of the shielding enclosure. Figure 7 illustrates the same but with PWB in place. The various electrical pins neatly protrude through the holes in the PCB.

Claims

1. A method for manufacturing an electronic apparatus comprising a front shielding assembly with a generally flat front plane (26) edged with a board to board multipin connector (21) and an antenna pin (22) substantially perpendicular to said plane, and a printed wire board (20) generally parallel to and in registration with said front plane, through applying said printed wire board in said registration and allowing said connector's multiple pins and said antenna pin to protrude through corresponding holes (32, 40) in said printed wire board, said method being **characterized by** the following steps:

first, effecting a mechanical centering of said PWB relative to said shielding assembly through the use of a plurality of edgewise disposed parts (24) of said PWB regarding edge parts of said shielding assembly whilst executing a first part of an approaching movement between said PWB (20) and said shielding assembly (26), and thereafter executing a further part of said approaching through centering at least one of said multipin connector and said antenna pin on a corresponding hole in said PWB.

2. A method as claimed in Claim 1, **characterized in that** said further part terminates through a click operation of a mechanism (28) secured to said shielding arrangement viz à viz an element (30) of said printed wire board.
3. A method as claimed in Claim 2, **characterized in that** after termination of said further part a fixating operation is executed on one or more elements (19)

of said shielding arrangement.

4. A method as claimed in one of Claims 1 to 3, **characterized in that** said first and further parts constitute a substantially linear motion of said PWB.
5. A method as claimed in one of Claims 1 to 4, **characterized in that** said further part has a closer tolerance than said first part.
6. An apparatus as manufactured according to a method as claimed in Claim 1 and comprising a front shielding assembly with a generally flat front plane (26) edged with a board to board multipin connector (21) and an antenna pin (22) substantially perpendicular to said plane, and a printed wire board (20) generally parallel to and in registration with said front plane, and having said printed wire board in said registration whilst allowing said connector's multiple pins and said antenna pin to protrude through corresponding holes (32, 40) in said printed wire board, said apparatus furthermore being **characterized by** comprising:

first mechanical centering means among said PWB relative to said shielding assembly through the use of a plurality of edgewise disposed parts (24) of said PWB regarding edge parts of said shielding assembly in a first approaching position between said PWB (20) and said shielding assembly (26), and furthermore a second centering means operative in a further approaching position through centering at least one of said multipin connector and said antenna pin on a corresponding hole in said PWB.
7. An apparatus as claimed in Claim 6, and having a tuner functionality.

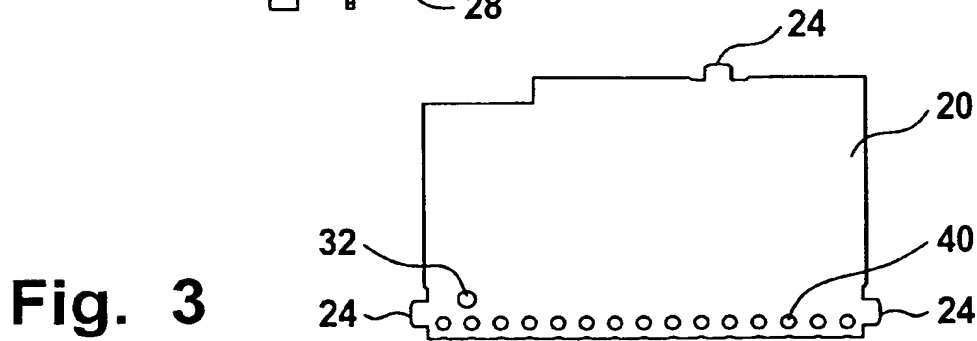
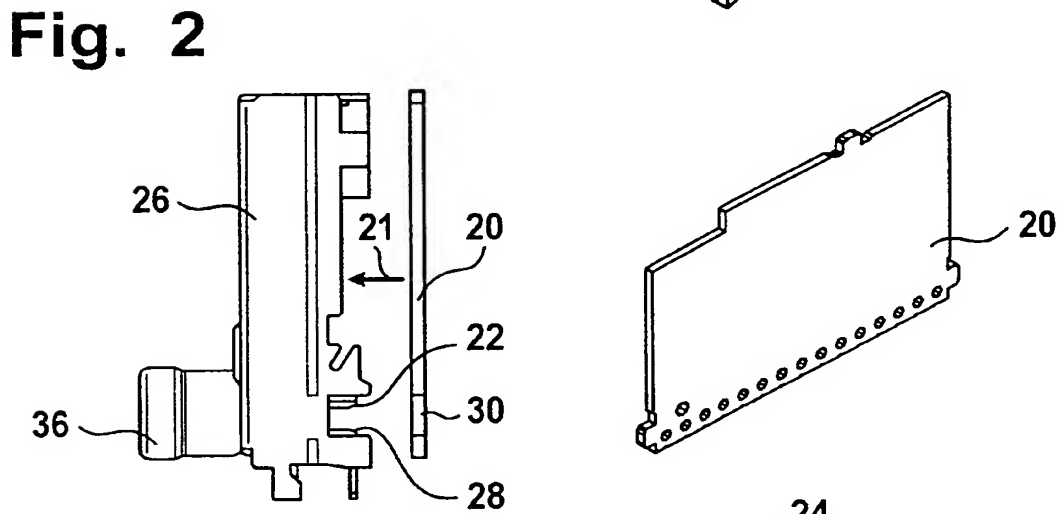
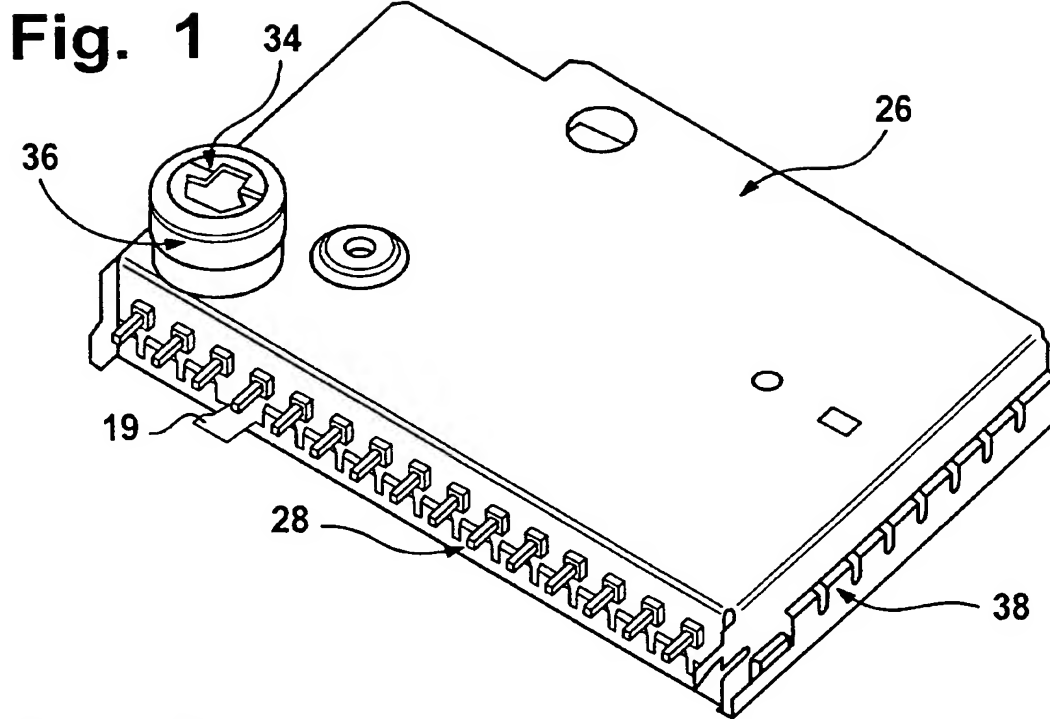


Fig. 4

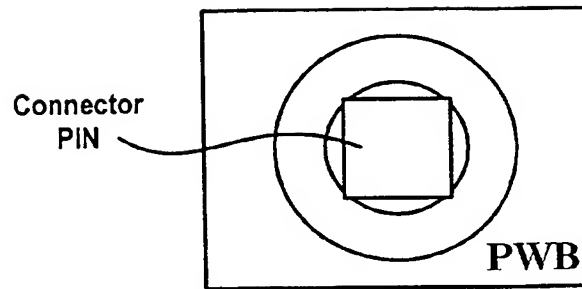


Fig. 5

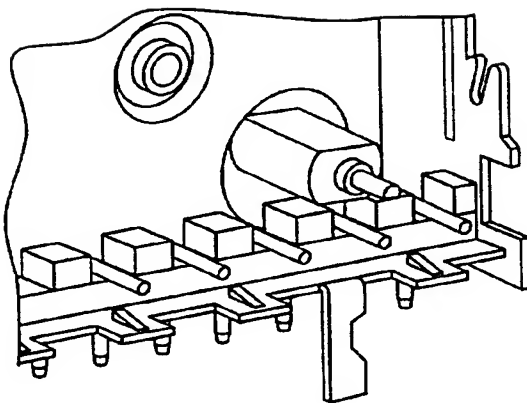
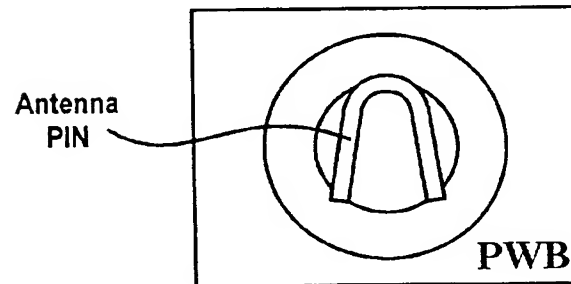


Fig. 6

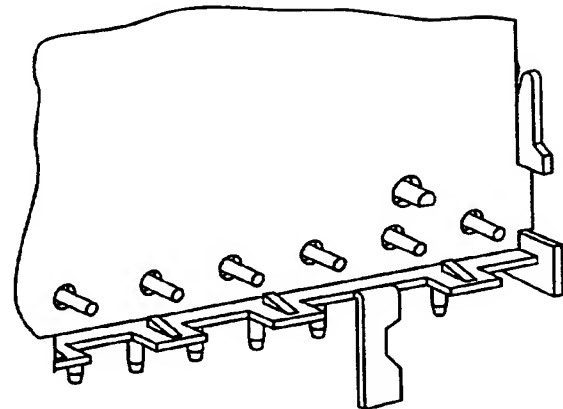


Fig. 7

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 11 1523

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 15 October 2001	Examiner Toussaint, F
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
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EPC FORM 1503-03-02 (Practitioner)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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